

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction by suppressing temperature of combustion gas derived from a burner, comprising:

5 a NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step for suppressing combustion gas temperature in such a manner that suppression of NO<sub>x</sub> generation is preferred to reduction of exhaust CO value, thereby keeping NO<sub>x</sub> value not more than a specified value; and

10 a CO reduction step for thereafter reducing exhaust CO value resulting from the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step to not more than a specified value.

2. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claims 1, wherein the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step is performed  
15 with an excess air ratio which is determined from a NO<sub>x</sub> reduction target value and an excess air ratio versus NO<sub>x</sub> characteristic of the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step.

3. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claims 1, wherein the CO reduction step is performed  
20 with a CO oxidation catalyst member.

4. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction by suppressing temperature of combustion gas derived from a burner, comprising:

a NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step for suppressing combustion  
25 gas temperature in such a manner that suppression of NO<sub>x</sub>

generation is preferred to reduction of exhaust CO value, thereby keeping NO<sub>x</sub> value not more than 10 ppm (at 0% O<sub>2</sub> in the exhaust gas, dry basis); and

a CO reduction step for thereafter reducing exhaust CO value resulting from the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step to not more than a specified value.

5. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claims 4, wherein the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step is performed with an excess air ratio which is determined from a NO<sub>x</sub> reduction target value and an excess air ratio versus NO<sub>x</sub> characteristic of the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step.

6. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claims 4, wherein the CO reduction step is performed with a CO oxidation catalyst member.

7. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction by suppressing temperature of combustion gas derived from a burner, comprising:

a NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step for suppressing combustion gas temperature in such a manner that suppression of NO<sub>x</sub> generation is preferred to reduction of exhaust CO value, thereby keeping NO<sub>x</sub> value not more than a specified value; and

a CO reduction step for thereafter reducing exhaust CO value resulting from the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step to not more than a specified value, the CO reduction step

being performed in a zone where the combustion gas temperature is not more than 900°C.

8. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claims 7, wherein the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step is performed  
5 with an excess air ratio which is determined from a NO<sub>x</sub> reduction target value and an excess air ratio versus NO<sub>x</sub> characteristic of the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step.

9. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claims 7, wherein the CO reduction step is performed  
10 with a CO oxidation catalyst member.

10. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction by suppressing temperature of combustion gas derived from a burner, comprising:

NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means for suppressing combustion  
15 gas temperature in such a manner that suppression of NO<sub>x</sub> generation is preferred to reduction of exhaust CO value, thereby keeping NO<sub>x</sub> value not more than a specified value; and

CO reduction means for reducing exhaust CO value  
20 resulting from the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means to not more than a specified value.

11. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in 10, wherein the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction is performed with an excess air ratio which is determined from a NO<sub>x</sub>

reduction target value and an excess air ratio versus NO<sub>x</sub> characteristic of the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means.

12. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claims 10, wherein the CO reduction means is a  
5 CO oxidation catalyst member.

13. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claims 10, wherein the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means is implemented by heat transfer tubes having a space formed by removing heat transfer tubes.

10 14. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in Claims 10, wherein the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means is implemented by heat transfer tubes having no space formed by removing heat transfer tubes.

15 15. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction by suppressing temperature of combustion gas derived from a burner, comprising:

NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means for suppressing combustion gas temperature in such a manner that suppression of NO<sub>x</sub> generation is preferred to reduction of exhaust CO value, thereby keeping NO<sub>x</sub> value not more than 10 ppm (at 0% O<sub>2</sub> in  
20 the exhaust gas, dry basis); and

CO reduction means for reducing exhaust CO value resulting from the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means to not more than a specified value.

16. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction by suppressing temperature of combustion gas derived from a burner, comprising:

5 NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means for suppressing combustion gas temperature in such a manner that suppression of NO<sub>x</sub> generation is preferred to reduction of exhaust CO value, thereby keeping NO<sub>x</sub> value not more than a specified value; and

10 CO reduction means for reducing exhaust CO value resulting from the NO<sub>x</sub> reduction means to not more than a specified value in a zone where the combustion gas temperature is not more than 900°C.